



State of Wyoming Military Department Office of the Adjutant General

*5500 Bishop Boulevard
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009-3320
<http://www.wy.ngb.army.mil>*

Dec. 20, 2006

For immediate release

Media contact:

Deidre Forster (307) 772-5253; cell (307) 631-4153; email deidre.forster@wy.ngb.army.mil.
Master Sgt. Trudy Woodcock, (307) 772-5229; email trudy.woodcock@wy.ngb.army.mil.
Spc. Christian Venhuizen, (307) 772-5040; email christian.venhuizen@wy.ngb.army.mil.

WyMD-06-133

Wyoming National Guard holiday letters to the editor

1041st ENGINEER COMPANY "Ghost Riders" sends Christmas Greetings from Iraq

I wanted to wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of the friends and families of the 1041st Engineer Company Ghost Riders.

Even though it is hard to be away from our loved ones during this conflict we gain peace of mind knowing that we are making a difference. We are proud of the missions we are accomplishing and know our families and the communities we come from share this pride with us.

The outpouring of support from the communities of Wyoming has confirmed to me that patriotism runs deep in our great state!

Thank you so much for the care packages, donations to Family Support Groups, and continued support of not only the members of this unit but of the families and loved ones we have had to leave behind. It makes it easier to focus on our missions here knowing that our loved ones are being cared for by our communities back home!

We look forward to our safe return in late summer or early fall of 2007.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

JIM SHREVE

1041st Engineer Company, Wyoming Army National Guard

First Sergeant

To our fellow citizens,

The 2-300th Field Artillery (Security Forces) Forward Citizen Soldiers, the Commander, and I want to send our best wishes to you during this holiday season.

We are very thankful for your assistance during this last year. Your support for us has been tremendous and overwhelming during this deployment. We have seen your assistance and gratitude on many fronts.

We have had Soldiers receive financial help, care for their loved ones, moral support, packages, thoughts and many prayers. We are very thankful for everything we have received.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our mission. The Powder River Cowboys have done many things here in Iraq. They have done numerous combat patrols, detainee transports, and have provided assistance to the Iraqi police.

Our Soldiers would make you proud for what they have accomplished here on the battlefield. They have shown values, courage, discipline, and fortitude in the democratic evolution of the Iraqi nation on a daily basis.

The battle is not in the Iraqi country side, it is in the minds of many Iraqi citizens. It is our Soldiers who are making the critical difference in the minds of many applying our values and ethics towards a common goal; a united Iraq. It is the will of the many that will overcome the ruthlessness of the few. Our mission continues to evolve to ensure success.

There are no better Soldiers to serve with than those who come from Wyoming! Once again, we are thankful for your support and prayers.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let'r Buck!

Sincerely,

John Woolery

2-300th Field Artillery, Wyoming Army National Guard

First Sergeant

There are almost 400 of our Wyoming National Guard Soldiers and Airmen deployed during this holiday season. If you include our family and friends in the other services, just about all of us know someone – care for someone who cannot be here to celebrate.

We make sure our holidays are bright, because that's the way our loved ones want it. That doesn't mean we don't say an extra prayer, keep a seat at the dinner table open, or leave a present wrapped for them to open when they come home.

We also have our Soldiers and Airmen who are home, ready at a moments notice to protect our country, our state, our own neighborhoods. It's a gift that you have been giving in greater numbers than ever in Wyoming's history. Our enlistments are up, meaning there are more of us ready to respond to natural disasters, terrorist attacks or the needs of our country.

For those of you not in uniform, you've given us a gift that has changed holiday colors from green and red to red, white and blue – wrapped in a bright yellow ribbon. We can't unwrap the gift you're giving, but we feel it every time we put on our uniforms, every time we raise our hands in salute.

For that and all the sacrifices and support our guard families and employers give to us – thank you so very much.

Maj. Gen. Ed Wright
State of Wyoming
Adjutant General